

**What is claimed is:**

1                   1. A method for routing emergency telephone calls  
2   via an IP softphone to a public safety answering point,  
3   comprising the steps of:  
4                   communicating non-emergency telephone calls via a  
5   wide area network by the IP softphone;  
6                   detecting an emergency telephone call being  
7   originated by the IP softphone;  
8                   originating a communication path via an cellular radio  
9   interface to a cellular network; and  
10                  communicating the emergency telephone call via the  
11   communication path via the cellular network to the public safety  
12   answering point whereby the public safety answering point  
13   responds to the emergency telephone call.

1                   2. The method of claim 1 further comprises the steps  
2   of detecting a termination of the emergency telephone call by  
3   the IP softphone; and  
4                   re-communicating non-emergency telephone calls via  
5   the wide area network by the IP softphone.

1                   3. The method of claim 2 wherein the cellular radio  
2   interface is an integral part of the IP softphone.

1                   4. The method of claim 2 wherein the cellular radio  
2   interface is external to the IP softphone.

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1           5. The method of claim 4 further comprises  
2     connecting the cellular radio interface to the IP softphone via an  
3     universal serial bus interface.

1           6. A method for routing emergency telephone calls  
2     via an IP softphone to a public safety answering point,  
3     comprising the steps of:

4           communicating non-emergency telephone calls via a  
5     wide area network to an enterprise communication switching  
6     system by the IP softphone;

7           detecting an emergency telephone call being  
8     originated by the IP softphone;

9           originating a communication path via an cellular radio  
10    interface to a cellular network; and

11          communicating the emergency telephone call via the  
12    communication path via the cellular network to the public safety  
13    answering point whereby the public safety answering point  
14    responds to the emergency telephone call.

1           7. The method of claim 6 further comprises the steps  
2     of detecting a termination of the emergency telephone call by  
3     the IP softphone; and

4           re-communicating non-emergency telephone calls via  
5     the wide area network to the enterprise communication  
6     switching system by the IP softphone.

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1           8. The method of claim 7 wherein the cellular radio  
2 interface is an integral part of the IP softphone.

1           9. The method of claim 7 wherein the cellular radio  
2 interface is external to the IP softphone.

1           10. The method of claim 9 further comprises  
2 connecting the cellular radio interface to the IP softphone via an  
3 universal serial bus interface.

1           11. An IP softphone for routing emergency telephone  
2 calls to a public safety answering point, comprising:

3                 a first interface communicating non-emergency  
4 telephone calls via a wide area network;

5                 a personal computer for detecting an emergency  
6 telephone call being originated by the IP softphone;

7                 the personal computer further originating a  
8 communication path via a second interface to a cellular  
9 network; and

10                the second interface under control of the personal  
11 computer communicating the emergency telephone call via the  
12 communication path via the cellular network to the public safety  
13 answering point whereby the public safety answering point  
14 responds to the emergency telephone call.

1           12. The IP softphone of claim 11 further comprises  
2 the second interface detecting under control of the personal

3 computer a termination of the emergency telephone call; and  
4 the first interface re-communicating non-emergency  
5 telephone calls under control of the personal computer via the  
6 wide area network.

1 13. The IP softphone of claim 12 wherein the second  
2 interface is an integral part of the personal computer.

1 14. The IP softphone of claim 12 wherein the second  
2 interface is external to the personal computer.

1 15. The IP softphone of claim 14 wherein the first  
2 interface is an universal serial bus interface.

1 16. An IP softphone for routing emergency telephone  
2 calls to a public safety answering point, comprising:

3 a first interface communicating non-emergency  
4 telephone calls via a wide area network to an enterprise  
5 communication switching system;

6 a personal computer for detecting an emergency  
7 telephone call being originated by the IP softphone;

8 the personal computer further originating a  
9 communication path via a second interface to a cellular  
10 network; and

11 the second interface under control of the personal  
12 computer communicating the emergency telephone call via the  
13 communication path via the cellular network to the public safety

14 answering point whereby the public safety answering point  
15 responds to the emergency telephone call.

1 17. The IP softphone of claim 16 further comprises  
2 the second interface detecting under control of the personal  
3 computer a termination of the emergency telephone call; and  
4 the first interface re-communicating non-emergency  
5 telephone calls under control of the personal computer via the  
6 wide area network to the enterprise communication switching  
7 system.

1 18. The IP softphone of claim 17 wherein the second  
2 interface is an integral part of the personal computer.

1 19. The IP softphone of claim 17 wherein the second  
2 interface is external to the personal computer.

1 20. The IP softphone of claim 19 wherein the first  
2 interface is an universal serial bus interface.